

California's personnel. She has been recognized professionally by national public information officer associations and served on the statewide board of the community college public relations professionals.

Mr. Speaker and members, a college education empowers a student to be a better citizen and a stronger participant in our nation's economy. Our community colleges are at the center of our nation's college system, offering affordable college and technical degrees to millions annually.

Given the importance of our district and the hundreds of thousands who have been educated during her service, Barbara Christensen's contribution to San Mateo County over four decades will be felt for at least another four decades. We celebrate her retirement, wish her well, and hope that she can now have more time for friends and family. She has sculpted both the educational and physical landscape of San Mateo County. There will be big shoes to fill, and a big smile to emulate. Her example will inspire others because San Mateo County's residents are all the beneficiaries of the career of Barbara Christensen.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. GWENDOLYN MASON

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the lives of many in my district have been touched by the life of one—Ms. Gwendolyn Mason; and

Whereas, she was born January 11, 1966 in Atlanta, Georgia, today she celebrates a milestone in her life, her 50th Birthday; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration; and

Whereas, Gwendolyn Mason is a warrior for those in need, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a servant to all and truly a friend; her dedicated service is present throughout my district, she is an unwavering advocate for youth, the elderly, the less fortunate and small businesses; and

Whereas, she leads by example from behind the scenes, as well as front and center as the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Hank Stewart Foundation, Founder of G.A.B.B., an employee of Yellow Pages, an advocate in the fight against Breast Cancer, as a member and minister for her beloved church, Solid Rock Ministries and as a member in her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Gwendolyn Mason on the anniversary of her birth and for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim January 11, 2016 as: Ms. Gwendolyn Mason Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of January, 2016.

#### HONORING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF KEIANA CAVÉ

#### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the academic achievement of a bright young lady from my Congressional district, Keiana Cavé. Keiana is just a senior at Lusher Charter School in New Orleans, Louisiana, but she has accomplished more than many college graduates.

Keiana has excelled in and out of the classroom. She has studied engineering while at Lusher, and has been dual enrolled at Tulane University, where she has taken biological anthropology and environmental geology courses. She is on a fast track to earn her Ph.D. and has already been recruited by other notable institutions.

Keiana is no stranger to the laboratory. She is currently a member of Tulane University's Van Bael lab and has previously served as a lab technician with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and a nanotechnology researcher at the University of New Orleans. She has been acknowledged many times for her work, including 1st Place U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corps Office of Naval Research Scholarship and 1st Place United States Air Force Certificate of Achievement. Keiana's chemical research project won second place out of 2,600 competitors at the 2015 International Science and Engineering Fair, winning \$1,500.00 as well as receiving honorable mention from the Consortium for Ocean Leadership.

Keiana designed a method that allows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop certain aldehydes or toxins that form as photo-products during oil spills. The MIT Lincoln Laboratory and NASA have named the orbiting rock "2000 GD136" after Keiana, an honor shared by fewer than 15,000 people. The planet was discovered in 2000 by the Lincoln Laboratory team.

Keiana's accomplishments are a testament to the fact that she is a true leader and an ideal role model for other young people in the community. I am confident that she will take that responsibility seriously, that she will be able to rise to any challenge, and will work hard to improve the world around her. I would like to congratulate Keiana Cavé on her remarkable accomplishments and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING ALHAJI SACCOH

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alhaji Saccob for his outstanding humanitarian work. A volunteer firefighter in Collingdale, PA, Mr. Saccob has led an effort to provide undersupplied firefighters in his native Sierra Leone with desperately needed equipment.

In June of 2013, Mr. Saccob made his first trip to Sierra Leone since fleeing the country's civil war in 2000. A chance visit to Sierra

Leone's National Fire Service in Freetown brought him face to face with the state of his homeland's fire departments. The firefighters he met lacked even the most basic protective gear and would frequently respond to calls in their street clothes.

This encounter inspired Mr. Saccob to spearhead an effort to collect used fire gear for his counterparts in Sierra Leone. He recently returned from a trip to Sierra Leone, during which he volunteered for two months with local firefighters and distributed approximately \$50,000 worth of equipment donated by several fire companies in Delaware County.

Mr. Saccob's humanitarian work extends beyond his work with Sierra Leonean firefighters. A graduate of University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Saccob is also the founder of the Sierra Leone Children's Fund, a nonprofit organization that promotes health and primary education in rural Sierra Leone. For his work, Mr. Saccob has been awarded the Legion of Honor from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains and recently received a Wells Fargo Community Connections Grant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Saccob for his tireless humanitarian efforts, both in the United States and abroad.

#### RECOGNIZING MRS. CHARLOTTE WADSWORTH AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Charlotte Wadsworth as the Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Wadsworth has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am privileged to recognize her success and myriad of achievements.

Mrs. Wadsworth began her teaching career homeschooling her own children and then working as an hourly teacher for the Blended School for two years. In 2009, she began working full time as a 2nd Grade Teacher at Walker Elementary School before transferring to Baker School as a 4th grade teacher in October 2011. Since August 2012, she has served in her current capacity as a high school English teacher at Baker High School.

Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators. First as a teacher homeschooling her children, then during her tenure teaching elementary school, and now in her current role as a high school teacher, Mrs. Wadsworth has proven time and again that she understands and values the critical role that educators play in the journey, development, and success of their pupils. Throughout her teaching career, Mrs. Wadsworth has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring her students to reach their highest potential. Most recently, she has demonstrated her leadership as yearbook advisor, where she enjoys celebrating life's milestones, rejoicing in students' athletic and academic accomplishments, and capturing events in the Baker community.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, and they play an integral role

in shaping the future of our Nation. The Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year award is a reflection of Mrs. Wadsworth's tireless work ethic and steadfast dedication to the Okaloosa County community. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in Northwest Florida, and her contributions to her students and community are unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Charlotte Wadsworth as the Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year and thank her for her commitment to service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Wadsworth, and we wish her all the best for her continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY BEING AWARDED TO DR. AZIZ SANCAR

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of Dr. Aziz Sancar for winning the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He and his team have been working for decades to understand human DNA more thoroughly, and have recently made a breakthrough in mapping DNA repair.

Originally from Turkey, Dr. Sancar earned his Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1977. It was during his time at UT-Dallas that Dr. Sancar successfully purified and described a bacterial enzyme called photolyase. This discovery was integral to his work that won him the Nobel Prize. Dr. Sancar was granted the status as a distinguished alumnus of UT-Dallas in 2009. His Nobel Prize is the icing atop the cake of his everlasting contribution to UT-Dallas and its doctoral program in molecular and cell biology. He is the first alumnus to win a Nobel Prize.

Dr. Sancar is the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He has been there since 1982. The work he has done at his lab on mapping the cellular mechanisms that underlie DNA repair, which occurs every single minute of the day in response to damage caused by outside forces, such as ultraviolet radiation and other environmental factors, is the reason he won the Nobel Prize. In particular, Sancar mapped nucleotide excision repair, which is vital to DNA subjected to UV damage. His work will create a better system of identifying how cancer drugs target cancer cells, and will improve treatment.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the U.S. Turkish Congressional Caucus, I want to express how much I value Turkish Americans' scientific, political, athletic and artistic contributions to America's rich mosaic. I congratulate Dr. Sancar for his hard work in mapping DNA repair, potential for advancements in cancer treatment, and pride he has brought UT-Dallas and the greater Dallas community in winning the Nobel Prize. And therefore, I want to formally recognize the brilliant Dr. Aziz Sancar in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING GRACE H. DANIELS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Grace H. Daniels for her service to the city of Philadelphia. A force in Philadelphia politics and an unwavering advocate for Philadelphia's African American community from the late 1940s until her death in 1980, Grace's lifetime of service to the people of Philadelphia will be recognized this month when 46th Street is renamed Grace H. Daniels Way in her honor.

Shortly after becoming one of the first African-American women to graduate from Duke University, Grace came to Philadelphia in the 1940s with her husband Otis and their large family. Settling into their new home on 46th Street, Grace quickly became active in the community and as a parent of nine children in the Philadelphia School District.

It should be no surprise that Grace's desire to help better her community led her to develop an interest in politics. She was elected Democratic Committeewoman of Philadelphia's 44th Ward in 1947. She later became chairperson of the 44th Ward in 1967 and a member of the Democrat State Committee in 1977, positions she would hold until her death in 1980. During her time in Philadelphia politics, Grace developed a reputation as a loyal and dedicated leader who always paid close attention to the needs of her constituents.

Although she is no longer with us, Grace left behind an enduring legacy of strong leadership and activism. She is an important part of Philadelphia's history and I am proud that 46th Street will be renamed in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring the life and memory of Grace H. Daniels.

#### RESTORE THE VOTE

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on #RestorationTuesday to honor the foot soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement. On March 7th of last year, while aboard Air Force One en route to Selma for the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, President Obama signed the legislation I introduced to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, and the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Marches in 1965.

On that day, 50 years after the march, thousands of grateful Americans gathered in my hometown to celebrate and honor the brave foot soldiers and all they sacrificed in pursuit of equality, justice, and voting rights. Democrats stood side by side with Republicans, and the first African American President in our nation's history stood next to President George W. Bush who reauthorized the Voting Rights Act just nine years earlier. On that day, we shed our party loyalties and came together as Americans.

Sadly, I stand on the floor of the House almost one year later, and Republicans continue to refuse to bring legislation to restore voting rights to the floor for a simple up or down vote. The progress that was paid for with the blood of the foot soldiers is being rolled back, and Congress has done nothing.

Tomorrow, Republicans and Democrats will come together again, this time in our Nation's Capitol, to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who showed such bravery 50 years ago. They deserve to be recognized by our country's leaders, but this Congress should be giving them much more than a medal. They should protect the sacred voting rights that these brave men and women marched for 50 years ago.

As we are joined tomorrow by the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement, I beg my colleagues to reflect on the sacrifice they made, as well as the ideals they fought for. These heroic everyday Americans were confronted with violence and injustice, but were not discouraged from fighting for their God given rights. I hope that their presence can inspire every member of this Congress to #RestoreTheVote.

#### COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago today, a pivotal event occurred in Montgomery, Alabama, the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

On this day 60 years ago, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began on December 5, 1955, after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man and move to "Colored" section in the back of the bus, was in its 57th day.

To that point, the boycott had enjoyed remarkable success.

Morning buses that normally would be crowded with African Americans heading to work throughout the city were essentially empty.

Instead, many African Americans gathered near the bus stops, waiting for rides, many of which came from whites whose primary interest was getting their domestic employees to their homes or other workers to their places of business.

Others rode Negro taxis, with many drivers giving reduced fares that day.

But thousands more walked to work and school.

An estimated that some 17,000 African Americans took part in the boycott initially, a number that would grow to 42,000, aided in part by the action by the bus system itself.

In particular, within days after the boycott began, bus officials asked the Montgomery City Commission for permission to close routes to many of the primary black communities, arguing that the boycott had made service to those areas no longer financially attractive.

So in those parts of town, even the handful of African Americans who might have wanted to use the buses could not do so.